



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
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Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli (410) 339-5065

DPSCS Veteran to be Installed as President Of the Maryland Law Enforcement Officers, Inc. December 5

Peter Juknelis is first ever from corrections field to hold post

TOWSON, MD (November 30, 2007)---Peter Juknelis, who rose through the ranks from Correctional Officer to become a Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) will be installed next Wednesday as the President of Maryland Law Enforcement Officers, Inc. (MLEO). He will become the first person from corrections ever to hold that post since MLEO was founded in 1935.

"This means so much to me," says Juknelis, "because I've worked hard since 2001 in MLEO to have corrections seen as legitimate law enforcement. A police officer *may* see a dangerous criminal on his or her shift. A correctional officer will *definitely* see many---often hundreds. Correctional officers wear a variety of hats: They are the police force within the institutions, counselors, mentors, and teachers. They're hard-working professionals who do very difficult jobs that most people would not be willing to perform."

Maryland Law Enforcement Officers promotes unity among the state's law enforcers, and includes among its members judges, investigators, federal, military, and railroad police officers, as well as a large number of correctional professionals.

Juknelis, a Harford County native and Towson resident, began his career in 1996 as a Correctional Officer at the former Maryland House of Correction Annex (now Jessup Correctional Institution); he later became a Case Management Specialist before moving up to Division of Correction headquarters, and, later, to DPSCS headquarters. He will be installed during a ceremony at the Knights of Columbus hall at 4301 Klosterman Avenue near Perry Hall on Wednesday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

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